

DuPage River Salt Creek Workgroup

June 27, 2012

10:00 AM – Noon

Meeting Minutes

Lombard Village Hall, 255 E. Wilson Ave., Lombard, IL 60148
Equivalent of 1 PDH Recognized for Attendance

1. Approval of April 25th Meeting Minutes (Attachment 1) *Tom Richardson noted that he was incorrectly quoted in the section dealing Sierra Club and coal tar sealants. He suggested replacing the language with "The Sierra Club supported the bill, but was informed it was going to a House sub-committee and was not sure it would make it out of that committee". Karen Daulton Lange put forward a motion to accept the minutes as modified, motion seconded by Nick Menninga, accepted unanimously.*

2. Presentation: Nutrient Removal Upgrade Costs at POTWs

Costs of upgrading POTWs for nutrient removal can vary widely, and are known to depend not only on which major nutrient (phosphorus and/or nitrogen) is being removed and to what level, but also on the size, type, and configuration of the existing plant. This presentation is based on the review of nutrient removal upgrade costs performed by the author as part of the 2011 Illinois Association of Wastewater Agencies' "Evaluation of Practical Technology-Based Effluent Standards for Phosphorus and Nitrogen in Illinois".

Presenter: Pavel Hajda, Symbiont

Larry Cox asked that, in order to put the costs of alternative investments in the watersheds into perspective, would a rough estimate of \$1.00/gpd to achieve phosphorus removal at POTWs across the watersheds be reasonable? Total wastewater treatment capacity (DAF) in the watersheds was 156 million gpd. Pavel answered maybe a watershed-wide rough estimate somewhere above \$0.75/gpd, capital costs only and excluding M&O costs, \$1/gpd was a defensible estimate of present worth. He cautioned about trying to come up with precise figures given variation between the faculties and the other variables he had covered.

Jim Knudsen asked if phosphorous removal would make the streams more swimmable and fishable. Pavel said he did not think so based on the results of the phosphorous reduction efforts by MWRDGC on Salt Creek and DO improvement had not been apparent. Tom Richardson asked if the lack of impact of local streams translated to lack of impact in the Gulf. Pavel clarified that he did not say that there had been no impact, he said that there had been no measured improvement in DO. The Gulf situation he said was outside his expertise. Tom said his question came out of the downstream impacts argument raised at the DRSCW Board meeting with IEPA

Stephen asked if there was any reason to think that it mattered to the Gulf if POTWs had an annual or a monthly average (the longer the interval the average was calculated over, the lower

the cost of compliance). Pavel said it was plausible that it might not matter but again, the Gulf hypoxia was outside his area of expertise.

3. Project Implementation and Financing Update (New business)

- DRSCW board meeting with MWRDGC Executive Director David St. Pierre. *Stephen gave an outline of the Executive Board meeting held on the 6.11.2012. The meeting, held at the MWRDGC offices, was attended by David St. Pierre (Executive Director of MWRDGC). Mr. St. Pierre reiterated his support of the DRSCW at the meeting.*
- White paper update *Stephen said that work is continuing on the white paper, an attempt to put the DRSCW strategy and findings into a document in a cogent form. It is hoped that a draft will be ready in the next 2-3 weeks.*
- State funding update *Larry reported that the IEPA has presented a capital funding proposal which includes the DRSCW's pilot program has been presented to the Governor's office for consideration. He reminded everyone that if this initiative is successful then we would need to drum up the matching funds.*
- Phosphorous strategy *Nick Menninga gave an outline on the State's nutrient reduction program. If eutrophication is found (nuisances algae observed, Diel, etc) then upstream plants are looking at having 1 mg/l in their standards. IEPA is looking at the possibility of carving out a place for FRSG and DRSCW. Stephen outlined the framework of a DRSCW strategy that had been discussed at the Board meeting on the 6.11.2012. One of the items was increased or systemic sampling at area POTWs. Larry Cox suggested that all member POTWs be polled to ascertain if they are comfortable with this item. Stephen agreed to do this.*

4. Monitoring Committee (new business)

- West Branch 2012 basin assessments- Contracts have been signed with both MBI and SLI for the biological and chemical monitoring respectively.
- Salt Creek Basin Assessment 2010 – Final report has been posted at www.drscw.org.
- East Branch DuPage River Basin Assessment 2011 – currently being drafted.
- Database Development Update – Schema has been developed by Geosyntec. DRSCW has budgeted to hire an intern with GIS and database expertise to work on populating the database. A candidate has been chosen and the Executive Board requests the release of the \$5,400 budgeted for this position. *Jennifer Hammer made a motion to release the funds to the Executive Board, for the purpose outlined, seconded by Sue Baert, accepted unanimously*
- DO monitoring – DO sondes have been deployed to all but one of the sites selected for 2102 (no housing in place as of yet). HACH has given us a 15% discount on the bench service agreement costs for maintaining our DO sondes. Thanks to HACH, *this change will save the DRSCW \$6,096 over 2 years.*

5. Projects Committee (new business)

- Topographical screening of stream segments: update and project selection - *project continuing*
- Ammonia study (lower East Branch DuPage River) update - *project continuing complicated due to dry conditions*

Attachment #1

- Fawell Dam fish passage study – The Projects Committee requests the release of the \$10,000 budgeted for this study. *Larry Cox made a motion to release the funds to the Project Committee for the purposes of this study, seconded by Jim Knudsen, accepted unanimously.*
- IPS outreach - The Projects Committee requests the release of the \$10,000 budgeted for this study. *Dennis Streicher made a motion to release the funds to the Project Committee for the purposes of this study, seconded by Mary Lou Kalsted, accepted unanimously.*
- PAHs – Legislation and action update
- DRSCW 319 grant application to execute one of the above projects?

6. Chloride Reduction update (new business)

- Workshop dates
- 2011-2012 Salt Use Questionnaire - *Dan Bounds said that the 2012 questionnaire had been designed and would be mailed to all relevant agencies in the next few weeks. He asked that agencies please fill it out as accurately as possible and return it by the deadline indicated.*
- Elgin O'Hare Expressway Expansion Letter Attachment 2

7. Watershed Permitting Update (old business)

8. Fecal Coliform TMDL (old business)

9. Watershed Committee Updates – West Branch, East Branch and Salt Creek

10. Business Items

- **New Board Member** – Ross Hill, P.E., Office of Planning, with the Forest Preserve District of DuPage County has retired; John Oldenburg, Director of Natural Resources, with the District has agreed to fill the West Branch DuPage River Committee Chairperson vacancy. *Thanks to Ross for all his work on the Board, welcome to John Oldenburg.*
- **Membership 2011 -2012** – Attachment 3
- **Accounts Update** - Attachment 4
- **Contract with the Conservation Foundation** Attachment 5. The agreement with the Conservation Foundation for the provision of staffing services to the Workgroup will expire on June 30. The attached renewal agreement for the period from 07/01/12 through 06/30/13 has been approved by the Executive Board and is recommended for approval by the Workgroup. The Workgroup is currently paying \$9,910.40 to TCF at the beginning of each month. This amount includes personnel costs of \$9,005.64 and fixed costs of \$904.76. The renewal agreement provides for a 3% increase in salaries and no increase to the fixed costs, resulting in new amounts \$9,275.81 for salaries and \$904.76 for fixed costs, for a total monthly payment of \$10,180.57. These new amounts are within our budget. The proposed renewal agreement also includes language to reflect the possible hiring of a GIS/database intern. The phrase “staff services other than those described in Paragraphs 2 and 3” has been added to Paragraph 5. We can also use this language to pay for any other TCF staff that we may choose to utilize in the future. *Motion to accept the contract made by Larry Cox, seconded by Tom Richardson, motion accepted with no*

Attachment #1

nays and one abstention (Jennifer Hammer abstained due to her being a TCF staff person).

- **Grant Management Update** – A partial draft final report for grant quarterly report is being prepared for FAA 3191008. The grant period is scheduled through September 30, 2012.
- **Other Business**

11. DRSCW Calendar, Presentations and Press Coverage (new business)

12. Workgroup Meeting Schedule (10AM-Noon at Lombard Village Hall)

- August 29, 2012
- October 31, 2012
- December 5, 2012
- February 27, 2013 (Annual Meeting)
- April 24, 2013
- June 26, 2013